



# A DOLL'S HOUSE

By Henrik Ibsen

## AUDITION PACK

*(January 2026)*

Villanova Players Inc.

## About the Play

Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* is a play about awakening – and the personal cost of clarity.

Set in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Norway, *A Doll's House* is a high-stakes domestic drama that remains as vital today as when it was written in 1879. Nora Helmer lives a carefully constructed life built on a secret she has carried for years: a deceit she engaged in to save her husband Torvald's life. When a desperate blackmailer threatens to expose her secret, Nora is forced to confront the reality of her marriage, her life, and herself. The play explores the emotional cost of honesty, the struggle for self-determination, and the courage it takes to see one's life clearly.

The play is a landmark of modern drama and shocked audiences of the time with its naturalism and unflinching examination of marriage, gender roles, and societal expectations. In 2026 when expectations and societal pressures seem to be ever bearing, when personal choice and identity have been conceded for convenience and acceptance, *A Doll's House* is as relevant today as it has ever been.

This new production is not a modernisation or re-setting of the play but rather aims to be as truthful as possible to Ibsen's original text while inviting a 21<sup>st</sup> century audience to the play.

## About the Director

Luke Monsour has been an active member of Brisbane's arts scene for more decades than he'd prefer to say and long-standing contributor to the Villanova Players. As a performer for VP, he has appeared in numerous productions including *Snapshots from Home (2002)*, *The Busybody*, *Rumors*, *Lottie: The Musical*, *Indian Ink*, *The Real Inspector Hound*, *An Italian Straw Hat*, and 2019's *The Kursk* (as Admiral Popov).

As a director for the Villanova Players, Luke has helmed Tennessee William's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Alan Ayckbourn's *Season's Greetings*, and most recently Joanna Murray-Smith's *Ninety* (2022). He aims to bring to every production a collaborative, actor-centred approach, valuing generosity, curiosity, and emotional truth in the rehearsal room.

For this production of *A Doll's House*, Luke is particularly interested in exploring moral complexity and emotional subtlety, creating space for actors to discover the humanity and inner life of each character.

## About Villanova Players

Villanova Players is a community theatre group in Morningside. Established in 1948, we perform four Mainhouse shows a year, and two Short Season productions. We produce plays of all varieties from classics to contemporary and the occasional musical.

Villanova Players acknowledges the traditional owners of the land we rehearse and perform on, the Yuggera and Turrbal people. We pay respect to elders past, present, and emerging, and are proud to continue the important traditions of storytelling on this land. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

## Important Dates

Auditions	Sunday 15 February	10am – 12pm
Rehearsals	Commence Sunday 1 March <i>**Potential full read prior to rehearsals commencing</i>	Tuesday 7pm – 9:30pm Thursday 7pm – 9:30pm Sunday 11am – 4pm
Bump-In*	Sunday 26 April	Call time TBC
Tech Week*	Commences Monday 27 April	Tech Run: Monday 27 April Dress Reh: Tuesday 28 April Final Dress: Thursday 30 April
Performances*	Friday 1 May to Sunday 10 May	Friday 1 May 7:30pm Saturday 2 May 2pm & 7:30pm Sunday 3 May 2pm Friday 8 May 7:30pm Saturday 9 May 2pm & 7:30pm Sunday 10 May 2pm
Bump Out*	Sunday 10 May	After matinee performance

*\*These dates require compulsory attendance*

*\*\*Dependent on cast availability*

## Characters *(Ages are indicative only)*

**NORA HELMER:** Female, late 20s – 30s

A woman who appears playful, naïve, and dependent, but has a complicated inner life that leaves her fundamentally in conflict with the social expectations that entrap her. Nora is not naïve or childish; she is learning to articulate truths she has long felt but never named.

**TORVALD HELMER:** Male, 30s – 40s

Nora's husband who is charming, articulate, socially respected and highly principled, embodying the rigid moral standards of patriarchal society. We are seeking actors who can make Torvald recognisably human, not villainous.

**DOCTOR RANK:** Male, 40s – 50s

A close family friend of the Helmers; he is witty, intelligent, and emotionally perceptive. Rank uses humour to mask loneliness and physical decline. The role requires subtlety, restraint, and the ability to communicate deep feeling without demanding attention.

**KRISTINE LINDE:** Female, 30s – 40s

Nora's school friend, a widow who has endured hardship and supported her family all her life; she is practical, grounded and emotionally mature.

**NILS KROGSTAD:** Male, 30s – 40s

A man marked by past disgrace and present desperation. Krogstad must be a threat, but also vulnerable. This is not a "villain" role, but a deeply human one.

## Audition Requirements

Auditions will involve paired scene work from the play as well as short solo excerpts from the script.

Scripts will be provided — memorisation is *not* required. If you would like an excerpt ahead of the audition, please email below with the part you like to read.

We are interested in how actors listen, respond, and collaborate, not in polished performance.

The audition will be a group call and will consist of cold reads of some excerpts of the script.

**If you are unable to attend the in-person auditions, please submit an [Expression of Interest form here](#).**

You can also send an audition tape or headshot to [info@villanovaplayers.com](mailto:info@villanovaplayers.com) .

Please email Luke at [luke@bulimbastudios.com](mailto:luke@bulimbastudios.com) with any questions.

## Our Commitment

We are committed to diversity and inclusivity, and to creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive rehearsal environment, where performers can explore emotional depth, complex characters, and truthful relationships in a supportive ensemble.

If you are excited by complex characters, honest storytelling, and collaborative theatre-making, we would love to meet you.